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Students of North
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John R. Mott

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**THE STUDENTS OF NORTH
AMERICA UNITED**





6

THE STUDENTS OF NORTH AMERICA UNITED

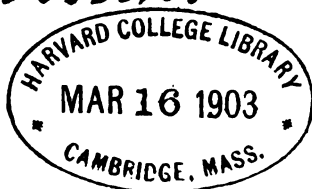


By JOHN R. MOTT, M. A.

NEW YORK
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THE STUDENTS OF NORTH AMERICA UNITED

JOHN R. MOTT

I

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT

It is still a disputed question where the first Student Young Men's Christian Association was formed. It is certain, however, that the first two were organized in the University of Michigan and in the University of Virginia, in the year 1858. During the next twenty years about a score of Associations were established in the colleges and universities of the United States and Canada. While some of these sprang up apparently spontaneously the majority were organized as the result of the pioneer work of Mr. Robert Weidensall, the senior secretary of the International Committee. These early Associations were not bound together in a common movement; in fact, few of them knew even of the existence of the

Early
Student
Association

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others. They had narrow and widely varying purposes and methods of work.

ginning of
Inter-
collegiate
Movement

On the sixth day of June, 1877, twenty-five delegates, representing twenty-one colleges in eleven states, met at the International Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations, held in Louisville, Kentucky, to discuss the practicability of forming a Christian intercollegiate movement. These men came together in response to a letter sent out by the Association at Princeton. The original suggestion came from a conversation of Mr. William E. Dodge, then a member of the International Committee, with three Princeton students, his sons, Mr. Earl Dodge and Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, and Mr. Luther D. Wishard. These students were assured by Mr. Dodge that delegates from the colleges would be welcomed at the Louisville Convention. As a result of the discussion by the students who met at Louisville, and of their presentation to the convention of the needs and possibilities of the student field of North America, it was decided that the International Committee should undertake an organized work on behalf of students. Mr. Wishard was appointed as the first student secretary and began at once the extension and development of the Movement. He continued

Origin and Growth of the Movement

to guide its development until 1888, when he started on his long journey through Asia to extend the Association work to foreign mission lands.

The extension of the Movement, now known as the American and Canadian Student Young Men's Christian Association Movement, among the institutions of the United States and Canada has been remarkable. The following table* indicates how rapid this progress has been :—

**Growth in
Membership**

In 1877	26	Associations,	1,300	members.
1882	174	"	8,665	"
1887	284	"	14,193	"
1892	425	"	27,334	"
1897	523	"	29,070	"
1902	681	"	41,800	"

The Movement now includes nearly every leading college and university in North America and is more extensive than any other intercollegiate organization, whether athletic, literary, fraternal, political, or religious. It is the largest and oldest Christian student movement of the world, although its field embraces two of the youngest nations. It is a striking fact that the tie of associated Christian effort

* This table includes conservative estimates for Associations in existence but not reporting their membership.

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has united more students in a common organization than has any other bond.

Extent and Character of field

The Movement includes in its field all universities and university colleges, theological seminaries or colleges, law colleges or schools, medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and veterinary colleges, institutes of technology and engineering colleges, military and naval academies, normal schools, agricultural colleges, and preparatory schools, academies, and high schools—in a word, all American and Canadian institutions of higher learning which have in them young men. The Association work has shown itself adapted to both denominational and undenominational institutions of higher learning; whether located in city, town, or country; whether preparatory, collegiate, graduate, or professional in character. Exclusive of institutions of secondary grade, the field of the Movement, both organized and unorganized, embraces some 1,200 student centers and nearly, if not quite, 200,000 men students.

Purposes of the Movement

The immediate object of the Movement is to organize and to develop strong Young Men's Christian Associations in all North American institutions of higher learning in which there are young men. This purpose, however, is regarded as but a means to the fol-

Origin and Growth of the Movement

lowing ends: to lead students to become intelligent and loyal disciples of Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord; to help them in the battle with the many and subtle temptations of student life; to build up strong Christian faith and symmetrical Christian character; to train students in individual and associated Christian work in order that they may be most useful in the Church; to place upon them a burden of responsibility for the extension and upbuilding of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world, and to influence them to place their lives where they can best serve their generation.

The International Committee and the various state and provincial committees of Young Men's Christian Associations have general supervision of the Association work among students throughout the United States and Canada. Nearly all of these committees have sub-committees, or departments of student work, which give more immediate attention to the student Associations. In cultivating the field these committees employ three principal agencies.

**Supervisory
Committees**

In some respects the most helpful influence of the supervisory committees is that which they exert through their student secretaries.

Secretaries

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The number of these workers has increased greatly in recent years. Fifteen years ago there were only two student secretaries of the International Committee; now there are ten. Then there was not a single state or provincial secretary who made a specialty of student work; now there are fourteen, not to mention trained undergraduate deputation men. Then there were but two general secretaries; now there are nearly sixty, including eight in metropolitan student centers.

Training Conferences

Training conferences constitute another valuable agency in promoting the development of the student Associations. They are of three classes, each having its special object. In the first place, conferences of international, state, and provincial student secretaries and visiting deputation men are held from time to time. These are designed to help equip the secretaries of the various supervisory committees for their responsible task of extending and developing the Movement. Secondly, there are annual presidential conferences which meet in different sections, states, and provinces. They are intended to train newly elected presidents for their work as leaders of the Association forces in their respective institutions. Thirdly, there are the various summer con-

Origin and Growth of the Movement

ferences. At these gatherings, which are also annual and which continue in session ten days, students are trained for the leadership of Bible classes, mission study classes, volunteer bands, and other departments of Association work.

In a Movement the territory of which covers a continent reaching nearly four thousand miles from sea to sea and the constituency of which is constantly changing, it is necessary to make large use of the printed page. *The Intercollegian*, the official organ of the Associations, helps greatly to unify and guide the Christian activities of this vast student field. The pamphlet and book literature of the Movement has become quite extensive. Fifteen years ago there were but three pamphlets bearing on the work of the Associations; now, if the publications of the Volunteer Movement be included, there are eighty-seven pamphlets and books.

Literatur

II

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

Attivation
of the
her Life

The Association has become the principal factor in the cultivation of the moral and religious life of the institutions of higher learning. This is especially true in the case of state and other undenominational universities and colleges, a class of institutions which are increasing in number of students, in wealth, and in influence. In these institutions, the Association as an agency of the Church has rendered largely the service which the Church renders to the general community, but which the Church alone could not perform for these centers of learning because of their undenominational character. While full credit is given to the valuable work accomplished by different denominations on behalf of students of their own affiliation in connection with some of these undenominational colleges and universities, it is generally recognized that the Associations managed by the students themselves have constituted the chief influence for the promotion of the Kingdom of Christ in the lives of the students. The testimony of college presidents is that the Association has been of great

Achievements of the Movement

value, even in the distinctively denominational colleges, in bringing students and instructors into harmonious fellowship, in promoting the religious life of the colleges, in placing on Association members a burden of responsibility to help their fellow students and the community, and in affording them training in Christian service.

In recent years as a result of the increased number of students, as a result of specialization, and of other causes, many Christian professors have not taken so active a part in promoting the moral and religious life of students as formerly. The Association came into being just in time to help meet the need thus occasioned and has become indispensable in initiating and directing the voluntary religious activities of the students and in enlisting the larger coöperation of the professors themselves. Viewing the student field of North America as a whole, the words of ex-President Patton of Princeton in 1901 are true: "The Young Men's Christian Association has well nigh the monopoly of the religious culture of our universities and colleges."

The religious forces of the colleges are far better organized than they were before the Association Movement was inaugurated. A gen-

**Provident
Timeline**

**Improve-
ment in
Organizat**

Students of North America

eration ago there were but few Christian societies among students and these had but a small membership and were restricted in their purpose and forms of expression. In one college, for example, the only object and work of the organization was the holding of prayer meetings; in another the conduct of Sunday schools in the neighborhood of the college was the only work undertaken; at yet another center the organization was simply a missionary society. Instead of the narrow, loosely organized, and scattering work which so largely characterized the religious societies of our colleges even thirty years ago, we find to-day comprehensive, highly organized, and thoroughly efficient Young Men's Christian Associations. In those days the purpose of the society seldom included work among the students themselves. Now in each college the Association recognizes as its chief responsibility the cultivation of the student field; and its plan of work covers the entire range of Christian activity for students as well as by the students.

The enlarged scope in the plan of Association work has made it possible to interest and to enlist in its work all classes of students. In a larger degree than formerly the coöperation of professors has been secured. Forces out-

Achievements of the Movement

side the college have been utilized also to further the purposes of the Association. By bringing the student Associations into one organization and providing for the interchange of ideas the Movement has made the best methods of each the common property and ideals of all. Through the labors of visiting and corresponding secretaries who have become in a measure experts on the work of student religious societies, through the use of an extensive literature dealing with the problems of the moral and religious life of students and with methods of Christian work, and through conferences for the comparative study of student religious problems and for the training of student leaders, the organization of the Association has been carried to a remarkably high degree of efficiency.

The religious work under the leadership of the Association has assumed such variety and extent as to make necessary a better material equipment. Commodious and attractive buildings, well adapted to their purpose, have been erected in many universities and colleges. When the Association Movement was organized there were no buildings devoted to student religious societies; now there are thirty student Association buildings valued at

**Better
Material
Equipment**

Students of North America

nearly one million dollars, all but two or three of which have been erected within the past fifteen years. In many other colleges canvasses to secure similar homes are now in progress. Among the most notable of these Association buildings together with their valuations are the following:—

Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton University..	\$100,000
Dwight Hall, Yale University.....	60,000
Barnes Hall, Cornell University.....	55,000
Silliman Hall, Hamilton College.....	25,000
Stiles Hall, University of California.....	30,000
Earl Hall, Columbia University.....	175,000

The Student Secretaries

The growth of Associations in size and complexity of organization as well as in opportunity has resulted in the creation of a new office or calling, that of the general secretaryship of the student Association. Although as recently as 1886 there were general secretaries at Yale and Toronto Universities only, there are now about sixty men devoting all or the larger part of their time to such work. It is an interesting fact that at a period when the arrangement of having a settled college pastor was being abandoned this new plan was adopted and has rapidly gained in favor among both students and professors. Happily the

Achievements of the Movement

fears expressed by some lest the employment of secretaries might lead students to feel less responsibility has proved to be groundless, for wherever the secretary has understood the distinctive functions of his office the amount of voluntary work by the students has increased.

It is due to the Association Movement more than to any other one human force that the colleges and universities constitute the most Christian communities in the United States and Canada. Taking the young men of North America as a whole not more than one in twelve are Christians, whereas in the institutions of higher learning about one in two of the young men are Christians. Still more striking is the fact that the proportion of students who are Christians is now larger than ever before. Two or three generations ago even in colleges with Christian foundations there were but small groups of disciples of Jesus Christ. In 1902 a careful census taken in three hundred and fifty-six colleges and universities of North America showed that of the eighty-three thousand young men fifty-two per cent. were members of evangelical churches. Twenty-five years previous the proportion was less than one-third.

**Increasing
Number of
for Christ**

Students of North America

spiritual
awakenings

Not only is it true that there are now more Christians in the colleges than in the preceding generations, but the number of students who are being led into the Christian life continues to increase. Some of the most fruitful spiritual awakenings in the history of educational institutions have occurred within the past ten years under the influence of the Spirit of God working through the Associations. These have not been confined to the Christian or denominational colleges. When all the difficulties are considered the revivals which have taken place in Western and Southern state and other great undenominational universities seem even more noteworthy than those in Christian institutions. There are few state universities in which each year men are not led out of unbelief into an intelligent and vital faith in Christ. The assumption of some that colleges cannot be as deeply moved now by the Holy Spirit as in times past is not supported by the history of the Association Movement. Evangelistic meetings are regarded with more favor in the colleges than in the past. A spiritual awakening in connection with Association work is now looked upon as a normal experience. The fact that the best Associations

Achievements of the Movement

expect definite evangelistic results each year is in itself significant.

Formerly most of the conversions in the colleges were traceable to the evangelistic efforts of college presidents, college pastors, and special evangelists. Now, while the Association continues to utilize these agencies, the principal and most potent factor employed in accomplishing these results is work by individual students for their fellows. This method which in all ages has proved to be so effective has been widely promoted by the Association through the creation and circulation of literature bearing on the subject, through organizing personal workers groups among students and also among professors, and through training young men to lead their fellow students in such evangelistic activity.

The Association has helped greatly in developing a strong and attractive type of Christian student life. It is a type characterized by reality, virility, open-mindedness, breadth of sympathy with men, and loyalty to Christ. From the beginning the Association has emphasized the truth that an earnest, active Christian life is not incompatible with the best physical, social, and intellectual development. In fact, it may be asserted that the prominent and

**Agencies
Used**

**Attractive
Type of
Christian
Life**

Students of North America

scientific attention which the Association Movement as a whole has given to body building and to the formation of right habits for the care of the body has been a distinct contribution to the physical welfare of college men. The Associations have drawn into their activities more and more the men most prominent in athletic life. In recent years the Association has also done much to promote a better social life among students. And the disproportionately large share of honors carried off by leading Association workers in all parts of the field shows clearly that high scholarly attainments and genuine religious devotion may go hand in hand.

Solidity

Generally speaking, it may be asserted that the type of religious life of American students is not traditional. They do not hold their present beliefs simply because they have inherited them. At the same time, they do attach weight to the historic facts and statements of the Christian faith. They are, as a class, loyal to the great verities of evangelical Christianity. Their religious belief is based upon a personal study of the Christian Scriptures and evidences. And not least helpful in establishing their faith has been the influence of the

Achievements of the Movement

presentation and study of the facts of Christian missions.

Their religious life, therefore, may be characterized as intellectual and spiritual. It is practical as well. The typical Christian student despises cant and hypocrisy, and desires, above all else, reality in his Christian experience. He is not satisfied to limit the Bible to the realm of thought and discussion; he seeks to bring it to bear upon his life,—to help him in his battle with temptation, to enable him to develop strong faith and a symmetrical character.

Moreover, he is not content to keep his religion to himself. He recognizes the force of Archbishop Whately's words: "If our religion is not true, we ought to change it; if it is true, we are bound to propagate what we believe to be the truth." Therefore he unites with his Christian fellow students in an organized movement to make Christ known in his college, in his native land, and throughout the world. While the type described is largely an ideal, it means much that the Movement has evolved for itself such an ideal and that in many cases it is being realized. Without doubt it is a type which appeals more and more to the strongest men.

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Reality

The service rendered by the Associations during the past quarter of a century in building up symmetrical character and strong faith in the lives of a multitude of students has been of incalculable value. This effort rests upon the conviction that the religion of Jesus Christ alone enables the student to realize his ethical ideals. The Association has ever emphasized that Christianity is essentially a matter of vital relation to Christ and of loyalty to His will. Recognizing how easy it is to separate religious belief from ethical life it has in season and out of season emphasized the necessity of making practice conform to profession.

Preventive Agency

It would be difficult to overstate the good accomplished by the Association in its work of prevention, that is, in resisting, overcoming, and counteracting the forces and influences which tend to undermine or arrest the development of character and faith. It has enabled students to meet the materialistic and rationalistic tendencies of the age and to fight successfully college temptations and evils. In the critical period of student life, when a man's faith is so severely tested and when he is not infrequently subjected to moral perils, the Association has been a great steadying, conserving, and stimulating influence. Its method

Achievements of the Movement

has been positive rather than negative. Among the practical means employed are the thorough, reverent study of the Scriptures; the public exposition of the meaning, claims, and resources of Christianity; Christian fellowship and the mutual declaration of experiences and purposes; participation in Christian service; and the formation of proper habits for the cultivation of the spiritual life.

The Association has improved the moral condition of the colleges. Attention has been called to this again and again by university presidents. It has tended to purify the practical ethics in the classroom, in athletics, and in the social sphere. It has waged warfare against the vices and sins of young men. It has not only urged students to accept Christ as their Pattern and Saviour, but also to live a life consistent therewith. By placing the stress on the ethical side of Christianity and by relating men to Jesus Christ as the power through whom alone they can attain unto their ideals, it has immensely strengthened the moral tone of the universities and colleges.

The fact that the Bible occupies a larger place to-day than ever before in the lives of American and Canadian students is because the Association has for years emphasized Bible

**A Purifier
of Student
Life**

**Bible Stud:
Interest**

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study as its pivotal department—the department on which depends the highest efficiency of all of its other activities. Fifteen years ago when the Movement began to devote special attention to this department there were less than two thousand young men in voluntary Bible classes in all the colleges of North America. Last year (1901-2) the number had increased to over fifteen thousand. In twenty undenominational universities in which several years ago there were no Bible classes, there are now in each from fifty to three hundred men engaged in such associated Bible study. In the Christian colleges also there has been a constant increase.

Type of Bible Study

The Association has stood for the devotional and scholarly study of the Bible. It has furnished a thorough, constructive, satisfying mode of studying the great documents of the Christian religion. It has encouraged students to employ the best historical, literary, and scientific methods and to carry forward their studies in an unprejudiced, fearless, reverent spirit. As a Movement the Young Men's Christian Association is large enough to include men of widely differing points of view on questions of Biblical study. Its main concern has been to help young men to acquire

Achievements of the Movement

correct methods and to form a right habit of Bible study and to keep before them the most important objects of such study—the development of symmetrical character and vital, intelligent faith and the promoting of Christ-like service. To accomplish these purposes systematic and progressive courses of Bible studies have been prepared by the Movement. Under its leadership cycles of Bible study have been provided covering the entire college course. In addition to these, courses designed for training Christian workers, for preparatory students, for other classes of students, or to serve other special purposes have been elaborated or are now in preparation. By general consent these courses occupy a leading place among Bible study text-books. A distinctive feature of many of these courses has been their arrangement with reference to the formation of the habit of daily study.

The Association has also grappled successfully with the problem of the organization and conduct of Bible classes. It has evolved a great variety of effective methods for enlisting men in associated Bible study. It has greatly improved the leadership of the classes. While the coöperation of hundreds of college professors has been secured in this work, special

Bible Class

Students of North America

stress has been placed on utilizing and developing student leaders. To this end a system of normal classes for training student leaders has been established at the student summer conferences, as a result of which nearly one thousand young men each year receive special preparation for the work of leading Bible classes.

Bible Study Secretary

The Movement has a Bible study secretary at its headquarters in New York who, in connection with his varied work of supervising the development of the Bible study department, carries on an extensive correspondence with all Bible class teachers who desire his assistance. The work of this Bible study specialist in studying the problems of Bible study in institutions of higher learning, in superintending the preparation of courses, in enlisting the coöperation of professors and others who are best able to train leaders of classes, in organizing and unifying the Bible study activities of the entire Movement, is of far-reaching importance. The Bible study work of the Associations has been one of the principal, if not the chief cause, leading to the introduction of biblical studies in the curriculum of a number of the colleges, and has given the initial impulse to not a few men

Achievements of the Movement

who to-day as professors in colleges and theological seminaries or as clergymen are devoting themselves so largely to the advancement of biblical research and teaching.

The Associations are training schools. The conception of these organizations as societies for meeting the religious needs and for guiding the Christian activities of students during the three or four years of their college life is inadequate. They must rather be regarded as schools which, in the process of cultivating the moral and religious life of the college and community, are training young men in methods of Christian helpfulness which they will use during the forty years or more which follow their student days. The Association takes young men at an age and in an occupation when the Church is most apt to lose them, and sends them back a few years later to do more systematic and aggressive work than ever. It develops their power of initiative, calls forth their executive ability, and familiarizes them with the most approved methods of individual and associated Christian work. It helps them to form right habits of prayer, Bible study, religious meditation, and Christian stewardship. It thus affords them a kind of training not supplied by the college curriculum or, to any

**Training
Schools for
the Church**

Students of North America

such degree, by other religious influences or student organizations. Thus for a generation the Movement has been training college men to give freely of their time, energy, thought, and money to Christ's work.

**Aids in
determining
Life Work**

In none of its activities has the Association Movement exerted a farther reaching influence than in that of helping students to determine the form and field of their life work. It seeks to bring every Christian student face to face with the supreme question as to where he can place his life so as to be of most service to God and to his generation. The life work meetings at the summer conferences, special addresses given each year in many of the Associations, the circulation of literature bearing on the opportunities for life service, Bible and mission study classes, participation in religious and philanthropic work, and individual work done with students by traveling secretaries are among the practical means employed by the Movement in realizing this purpose. The great majority of its members, numbering tens of thousands, have entered various lay pursuits and are to-day working as Christian lawyers, doctors, teachers, editors, statesmen, engineers, and business men. Thus a vast lay force has been developed for the Church. They consti-

Achievements of the Movement

tute the laymen leaders of laymen in this age of laymen.

An increasing number of men are entering the secretaryship of the Young Men's Christian Association, city missions, and other forms of domestic mission work. But even more important than these contributions has been that made to the Christian ministry. A professor in one of the Western theological seminaries who had investigated the causes influencing young men to enter the ministry assigned as the principal cause the Young Men's Christian Association. It is estimated that in the pathway of the work of the Association and as a result of its influence nearly if not quite six thousand young men have during the last twenty-five years devoted themselves to this calling. They are scattered through not less than forty different Protestant communions.

The Associations have developed among students a growing concern for the moral, social, and religious welfare of the home field. The first Associations organized had as one of the main features of their work the spreading of the teachings and spirit of Christ among the neglected parts of the college communities or surrounding country. More and more they have interested themselves in the religious

**Entering
Christian
Callings**

**Grappling
with Home
Problems**

Students of North America

problems of the great cities and of the rural districts. Their members are studying and discussing these questions more than in former days and are seeking to bring their own lives to bear upon the solution of the problems. There are to-day few Associations which are not engaged in one or more forms of religious or philanthropic work within the sphere of their influence. Some of the smaller and less fully equipped societies have accomplished a work as thorough and as valuable as the larger and stronger organizations. These helpful activities have not been restricted to the student year, but in the case of a number of Associations they have been carried on during the vacations. This kind of work has been most valuable to the Church in hundreds of communities. It has reacted most advantageously on the Association work among the students themselves. It has afforded a valuable training ground and has without doubt influenced a large number of men to continue on graduation in aggressive religious work.

**Helpfulness
to General
Associations**

The student Associations owe much to their organic affiliation with the general Young Men's Christian Associations. On the other hand the general movement has received a great deal from the student section. Large

Achievements of the Movement

and constantly increasing numbers of the members of boards of directors and state and provincial committees are being interested in work for young men and trained by the student Associations. The same is true of those who have entered the secretaryship. Already over ten per cent. of the secretaries in the general work are men who were formerly in the college Associations. This is a great advance over ten years ago. The proportion of international and state secretaries who are college men is far greater. The fact that the vast majority of men who have entered the ministry or become editors of religious periodicals during recent years are old college Association men has done more to secure for the Association Movement the sympathy and backing of the leaders of the churches than any other one cause.

For a time there was danger that men, who on graduating from the colleges were interested in the Association Movement, might during the three years of their theological course lose their active sympathy. But the affiliation of the Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance in 1898, as a result of which there are now Young Men's Christian Associations in nearly all of the important theological seminaries, ensures the intelligent and hearty support of the future

**Influence
upon the
future
Ministry**

Students of North America

ministry. Moreover, the college Associations have obtained for the Movement as a whole the prestige and the practical help in counsel and in supervision of the influential body of educators. Time only can show what a mighty tower of strength this is destined to prove in this internal development period of the life of the general Movement. That the student Associations have contributed valuable ideals and methods to the general Association work is well illustrated by the developments in the Bible study department. It is an interesting fact also that the pamphlet and book literature of the Association Movement in recent years has been provided so largely by former college Association men.

Association Foreign Work

One of the largest contributions made by the student department to the Association Movement has been in the realm of the foreign work. The work of the Young Men's Christian Association, both general and student, in every one of the ten mission lands thus far entered and manned by secretaries was planted and is to-day being led and developed by college Association men. The extent and value of this service is recognized from this single fact, that the foreign Association work is concerned, in purpose at least, with the moral and

Achievements of the Movement

religious welfare of two-thirds of the young men of the human race.

What has been the contribution of the student Associations to the life of the nations of the United States and Canada? If it be true that, as go the universities so go the nations, a service of the greatest possible value has been rendered in making the universities and colleges strongholds and propagating centers of pure Christianity. In the achievements which have already been recounted the Associations have served the nation in a very real way. Whatever they have done, especially among young men who are to become leaders, to build character, to promote righteous living, to hold up noble ideals and high ethical standards, to stimulate to unselfish, heroic service, has added to the power of the nation. But in more specific ways this Movement has contributed to the national welfare. In the midst of marked class tendencies it has maintained in each university a strong, democratic institution. The highest ideals of Christian citizenship have been presented on its platforms, both in the person and in the messages of speakers whom it has brought before the students. It has proclaimed the doctrine that the results of education are not for personal betterment only,

**Contribution to
National
Life**

Students of North America

but are to manifest their power and value in larger, more intelligent, and more generous public service. The thorough-going study of the Bible which it promotes, especially the study of the example and teachings of Jesus Christ and also of God's dealings with the Jewish nation, must have exerted a great influence in the direction of good citizenship and statesmanship. The close relation which the Associations have sustained to movements for social betterment, not simply in the realm of study and discussion, but especially through the active coöperation of its members and graduates, has not been without its political value. The Association Movement is firmly intrenched in nearly all of the leading normal schools. From these institutions each year have gone hundreds of men to help mold the public school system. It has meant much for the best life of the nation that such men have been so largely impressed by these Christian organizations. As the Association is a young Movement the men whom it has most influenced are only beginning to be heard in the higher councils of the nation; nevertheless among the younger men in responsible positions in municipal, state, and national political life there are many in whose preparation for the service of the state the As-

Achievements of the Movement

sociation was a prominent factor. By means of the World's Student Christian Federation the members of the American and Canadian Student Young Men's Christian Association have been brought into fellowship with the Christian students of all other lands. That this is destined to promote better international relations there can be no question.

Not least among the results of the Student Young Men's Christian Association Movement of North America has been the influence it has exerted on the organization and work of other students in different parts of the world. The corresponding work among the college women of the United States and Canada is directly traceable to that among the young men. The leaders of the student movements of other lands have repeatedly borne testimony to the prominent and indispensable part which the North American Movement has had in this organization and development. For years before there was any national student organization in Europe the American Movement was helping to pave the way for such a work. Four of its representatives spent periods of time ranging from a few months to three years studying the field, helping to inaugurate national student conferences, and to stimulate lo-

**Helpfulne
to Studen
of Europ**

Students of North America

cal, national, and international organization. Delegations representing different European universities were invited to Northfield to study the organized Christian work of North American universities. In the organization of at least five of the seven student Christian movements of Europe the North American Movement was one of the important factors.

Students of
Other Lands

The first student Christian Associations in Japan, China, India, Ceylon, and the Levant were organized by former members of American college Associations. Their active cooperation also helped to effect the national organizations in all these lands as well as in Australasia and South Africa. Some time before the World's Student Christian Federation was formed, in one of the official reports of the North American Movement the question was asked: "Has not the time come for us to work and pray with confidence for the federation of all Christian student organizations throughout the world? Who can measure the power of such a comprehensive student movement, if permeated with the Spirit of Christ and true to His purposes in the world?" Later in that year (1895) the Federation was formed as a result of the joint action of the North American, British, German, Scandinavian, and

Achievements of the Movement

Mission Lands movements. It has grown until now it links together all the national and international Christian student movements of the world embracing over one thousand five hundred separate Associations or Unions with a total membership of over eighty thousand students and professors.

A few years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury said that nothing inspired him with more hope than the recent uprising of university students for the evangelization of the world. From the very beginning of their intercollegiate organization the Associations have urged the claims of the unenlightened nations upon the students who constituted the most enlightened class in the Christian countries. As far back as twenty years ago the missionary department was the most highly developed in the Association. When the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions came into being in 1886 it gave a tremendous impetus to this part of the work. Although the Volunteer Movement at the beginning was independent, when it assumed an organized form in 1888 it was found desirable to relate it organically to the Student Young Men's Christian Association Movement so that, so far as young men are concerned, the Volunteer Movement and

**Volunteer
Movement**

Students of North America

its activities constitute the most prominent and important factor in the foreign missionary department of the work of the Associations. The advantages of this arrangement are mutual and obvious. The missionary movement, kept within the Associations, has done a great deal to broaden and to vitalize them and to call out their best energies. On the other hand much of the good accomplished by the Volunteer Movement would have been impossible apart from the Associations. It should not be forgotten that the Associations supplied the conditions without which there would have been no Volunteer Movement. Moreover they furnished it a common ground from which its appeal could reach all students. They placed at its disposal an organization and forces which greatly facilitate the accomplishment of its purposes.

Results of Missionary Activity

What have been some of the results of the foreign missionary activities of the Association and Volunteer Movement thus closely related? For half a generation Christian students have been instructed more fully than in any previous period concerning the world-wide nature of the Kingdom of God,—its progress, condition, needs, opportunities, problems, resources, and claims. Regular missionary meet-

Achievements of the Movement

ings have been held in nearly all institutions. An extensive missionary literature has been prepared with special reference to students, and has been widely circulated. Collections of missionary books have been placed in hundreds of institutions. For years students have been the largest purchasers of missionary books. The colleges have led in the scientific study of Christian missions. Under the leadership of the Volunteer Movement with its educational secretary many progressive courses of mission study have been prepared and introduced. When this feature of the work was undertaken about ten years ago there were not more than a score of classes for the thorough study of missions in all the colleges and theological seminaries of North America; during the past year (1901) there have been over three hundred classes with an enrollment of nearly five thousand students. Over half the members of these classes were not volunteers for foreign missions. This means much for the future leadership of the missionary forces at home.

For many years the colleges and seminaries have given annually from \$30,000 to \$40,000 to foreign missions. The principal benefit resulting from this financial coöperation has been

**Missionary
Gifts**

Students of North America

that of helping students to form the habit of systematic and proportionate giving. It also sends them out into the churches with the object lesson of their own colleges supporting missionaries which makes it more probable that later they will lead their churches to do likewise.

**furnishes
Volunteers
for the field**

An important achievement of the Movement has been that of leading the students of our day to regard the evangelization of the world as one of their chief responsibilities. Thousands of students have been induced to offer themselves as volunteers for foreign missions. Within the past sixteen years fully two thousand, of whom two-thirds were men, have been sent out to the mission fields by the regular missionary societies of the Church. Nearly one hundred per cent. more volunteers have sailed during the last eight years than during the preceding eight years. The work of the Movement has also enabled the mission boards to raise their standard of qualifications partly as a result of increasing the number of candidates and partly as a result of the valuable preparation afforded by the Associations. A recruiting agency has thus been afforded the Church the like of which she had never known. In addition to raising up thousands of capable

Achievements of the Movement

candidates for foreign service the Associations are placing on tens of thousands of Christian students who are to work at home as pastors and as laymen an equal burden of responsibility to back up and promote the foreign missionary enterprise by their advocacy, by their gifts, and by their prayers. These men who have gone out with enthusiasm and intelligent conviction are already making themselves felt throughout the home churches. They are leading in developing the missionary life and work among the millions of members of the young people's movements of the Church.

One of the principal contributions of the Movement to the Church has been the emphasis of its watchword, "The evangelization of the world in this generation." This has exerted a great unifying influence among the volunteers and other Christian students. It has arrested the attention and stimulated the thought of a multitude of Christians on the subject of world-wide missions. It has presented a powerful appeal to some men to become missionaries and to others to make their lives tell in Christian lands for the world's evangelization. It has placed a much needed emphasis on the urgency or immediacy of our missionary obligation. The quadrennial con-

**The
Watchword**

Students of North America

ventions of the Volunteer Movement are recognized as the largest, most representative, and most powerful missionary gatherings held in the world and have deeply stirred all branches of the Church.

A Unifying Influence

A most significant result of the Association Movement among students has been the unifying influence which it has exerted. Undoubtedly it has tended to draw together the students in each college who otherwise would be divided along the various lines of cleavage which exist to a greater or less degree in every institution. Reference has already been made to the value of this in promoting a more democratic spirit among students. It also makes possible the bringing to bear of a stronger influence on the moral problems of the college. The Association has unified the religious interests in each institution and thus presented a common front to the forces of evil. The Movement has done more to develop the intercollegiate consciousness and the intercollegiate spirit and to bring the colleges together in helpful relations than any other agency. It has bound together the student Christian organizations of all North America and has related them closely to similar societies of students all over the world. Gladstone, in his lecture on

Achievements of the Movement

"The Work of Universities," speaks thus of the influence of the universities of the Middle Ages: "They established, so to speak, a telegraph for the mind; and all the elements of intellectual culture, scattered throughout Europe, were brought by them into near communion. They established a brotherhood of the understanding." So this Movement has established a telegraph in things spiritual, and the different ideas and methods wrought out in the experience of groups of Christian students in each country have been made known to the Christian societies of students in all other lands. This interchange of ideas and enlarged knowledge has increased the working efficiency of every Association, as well as enriched its sympathies and augmented its missionary spirit.

The world-wide student movement has revealed to the Christian students of all nations, races, and climes with greater fullness and attractiveness than ever their oneness in Jesus Christ. It has emphasized that high over all the peculiarities and differences that would divide us stands our common faith, and, above all, our common Lord. The Association Movement, as no other agency, is uniting in purpose, in spirit, and in practical effort the various

**World - Wide
Unity**

Students of North America

branches of the Church of Christ. In its ranks in the colleges and theological seminaries are the leaders, both clerical and lay, of the Church of to-morrow. They are working together in harmony and sympathy and with power on the basis of agreement in the essentials of Christianity. So they will continue to do as they leave college walls. This already presents the most telling object lesson in Christian unity that the world affords. Never after the years of Christian fellowship and associated effort within the colleges will these men cease to demonstrate to the world that "there is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."

III

POSSIBILITIES OF THE MOVEMENT

There is room for a large expansion of the Association Movement in the field of the unorganized institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada. Among the institutions which do not yet have Associations are 132 colleges and universities. A large section of these are German and Scandinavian Lutheran colleges of which several are non-English-speaking. In view of the influential relation which these educational centers sustain to the cosmopolitan life of America, persevering efforts should be made to affiliate them. There are still over 140 medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and veterinary schools or colleges and about fifty law schools which have not been organized. These professional schools are nearly all located in large cities. Professional students are the most neglected and the most severely tempted class of students on the North American continent. Moreover, they are to wield an immense influence for good or for evil in the various communities in which their professional career is spent. They are in the final stage of their student life. The probabili-

Unoccupied
fields

Students of North America

ties are very great that they will never be brought into vital relation to Christ and trained for His service, unless it be during their student days. How important it is, therefore, that Associations be established in every one of these institutions. The advantages which have attended the affiliation of theological seminaries emphasize the desirability of identifying with the Movement the forty-five institutions of this kind which do not yet have Associations. There are several technological schools which should be drawn into the Movement. The 174 normal schools still without Associations constitute a field of great promise and of critical importance. The possibilities of these institutions, which so largely furnish the teachers of North America, are indeed very great if wisely cultivated by the Movement. There are thus between 560 and 600 colleges and professional schools, having in them fully 60,000 students, into which the work of the Young Men's Christian Association has not been introduced.

Secondary Schools

Although the Movement has for several years given attention to preparatory and other secondary schools resulting in a fruitful work, not more than the fringe of this field has thus far been touched. There are in the United States

Possibilities of the Movement

alone 1,897 private high schools with an enrollment of 47,118 boys. Of these 226 have fifty or more boys each and a total enrollment of 20,134. Moreover, there are also in the United States 6,005 public high schools with an enrollment of 216,207 boys. If we combine these two kinds of secondary schools and also include similar institutions in Canada we have a field embracing over 8,000 schools having in them fully 275,000 boys. The good already accomplished in the academies and high schools of North America, as well as the results which have attended the efforts put forth by the student movements of Great Britain, Australasia, and of various countries on the Continent of Europe, afford ground for the belief that the special prosecution of this work by our own Movement will exert an influence of immediate value and of far-reaching significance. The boys in the secondary schools are at the critical age when they are most susceptible both to good and to bad impressions. These schools are the keys to the colleges and universities. What can be more vital to the cause of Christ among students than wisely bringing to bear upon these hundreds of thousands of school-boys the influence of the Association Movement?

Students of North America

Better Supervision Needed

Notwithstanding the opportunities and need for expansion there is even greater need of a more thorough supervision of the Associations already existing. The force of international, state, provincial, and metropolitan secretaries is insufficient to give adequate attention to all the Associations. The growth of the supervisory agencies has not kept pace with the extension of the Movement and with the increase in the number of students in the fields already entered. The fact that the student population changes on an average once every three years, together with the fact that the officers of the student Associations are as a rule changed each year, renders vigilant and constant supervision more necessary possibly than in case of any other religious organization. The enlargement of state, provincial, and metropolitan supervisory agencies, the establishing of still closer relations between these agencies and the International Committee, the wider adoption and higher development of the plan of the local general secretaryship, the multiplying and increasing the efficiency of conferences for the training of voluntary workers, are the chief factors in the solution of the problem.

Possibilities of the Movement

In the institutions in which Associations have been organized there are about 100,000 students who have not identified themselves with the Movement. Probably one-third of this number are professing Christian men. Many of these would become efficient workers if they were led to join the Association with an intelligent appreciation of the claims and possibilities of organized work among their fellow students. Resolute efforts should be put forth to reach them, not for the sake of increasing the number of members as an end in itself, but because of what the Association can do for them and the greater good they will enable the Association to accomplish. In some colleges a real difficulty presents itself in the fact that the Association includes in its membership only students of a certain class or set. The very genius and purpose of a Christian Association, like that of its Lord, should be to unite all real disciples of Jesus Christ without reference to their denominational affiliations, wealth, fraternity connections, athletic reputation, intellectual standing, or life plans. These are problems in connection with the moral and religious life of nearly every institution which cannot be solved unless all right thinking Christian men sink their minor differences and unite for

**Wider
Enrollment**

Students of North America

this definite purpose. Students who have not yet become members of the Church, but who are in sympathy with the aims and spirit of the Association, should be led to identify themselves with it. Whatever their religious affiliations, men should be given to understand what it means to become a member of such a Movement. Otherwise an increase in membership may not prove to be wholly beneficial.

Larger Co- operation of Professors

The professors and instructors in the colleges should be enlisted more largely in the work of the Movement. The establishment of right relation between college faculties and students in promoting the religious life of our institutions of higher learning is a problem calling for more consideration and discussion than it has hitherto received. While the distinguishing service rendered by the Movement has been that of placing the burden of responsibility upon the students themselves for the promotion of the best moral and religious life of the college, it should not be forgotten that no amount of undergraduate activity can take the place of the larger experience and outlook of the Christian teachers. They are fitted by virtue of their position, age, and character to sustain a vital relation to the Associations. The special conferences of Christian professors

Possibilities of the Movement

held under the auspices of various state committees to discuss the question as to how members of the faculty can strengthen and advance the Association work, the increased attendance of professors at the student conferences, and the organization of professors into groups to promote the purposes of the Association among their colleagues, as well as among the students, are steps in the right direction.

There is need of carrying on a deeper, more scientific study of the field and work of the Associations. On every hand there are problems which will yield only to thorough investigation and earnest thought. The first twenty-five years of the life of the Movement have been characterized largely by the work of organization and extension. The next twenty-five years should witness a great deepening of its life and a marked augmentation of its influence as a religious force in the colleges of North America.

The material side of the Associations must not be overlooked. To carry on a comprehensive and effective work adequate material equipment is required. Association buildings are needed in hundreds of colleges and universities instead of in less than two scores of them. In places where the extent of the activities of

**Scientific
Study of
Problems**

**Improvement
Equipment**

Students of North America

the Association does not demand the use of an entire building, properly adapted and well furnished rooms should be set apart for this purpose. The financial resources of the Movement should be cultivated and utilized more largely. Money is stored-up power. God uses it in accomplishing His purposes. In many places the work is very restricted in comparison with what it might be if more use were made of this means. In many of the large universities the time has come to secure a partial endowment of the work.

**Warfare
Against Col-
lege Evils**

Probably no Association is doing as much as it should to fight and to counteract the evil forces and influences which are injuring the lives of students. The fact should not be lost sight of that such evils as impurity, intemperance, gambling, selfishness, pride, hypocrisy, and materialism are working in many centers of learning with earnestness and with deadly effect.

**Need of
Evangelistic
Work**

Incomparably the most important work before the Associations is that of leading students to become intelligent and loyal disciples of Jesus Christ. Even those members who have done the most in this respect should have a keen sense of dissatisfaction as they reflect on how comparatively little has been accomplished.

Possibilities of the Movement

At the same time the mighty work wrought by the Spirit of God in the conversion of students in different parts of the United States and Canada, not to mention other lands, should increase the faith of the members of every Association and intensify their purpose and zeal to be used in achieving similar results. If the Holy Spirit will work through bands of earnest Christian students in the most difficult fields of North America, and move mightily entire student communities even in the Orient, He may be depended upon to manifest like power in other Associations which comply with the conditions of His working.

The Movement should plan, pray, and work for spiritual awakenings in hundreds instead of scores of universities, colleges, and schools. To this end prominence should be given to the consideration of this vital question at all student conferences and in the councils of the Associations and of the committees having supervision of the Associations. Evangelistic agencies must be multiplied. Efforts should be made to discover and to enlist the coöperation in evangelistic work among students of more professors and pastors who are qualified to command the intellectual and spiritual confidence of these men. More secretaries must be

**Agencies
Needed**

Students of North America

trained and enabled to give special time to such work. It is a serious fact that at the present time several times more calls to conduct evangelistic meetings in colleges have to be declined by men who are invited to render such service than they are able to accept. This situation is unprecedented in the religious history of our colleges. Bible classes should be utilized more largely as an evangelistic agency, as has been done so effectively by the Associations in Japan and India. Personal workers bands both among students and professors should be multiplied. Literature calculated to create among students a sense of responsibility to lead their fellow students to Christ should be widely circulated. Any means which tends to increase the number of students who employ the method of individual work with individual students ought to be utilized.

**Increase of
Bible Study**

While gratifying progress has been made in the Bible study department of the Associations, the Movement, comparatively speaking, has made but little more than a beginning in this part of its work. Less than one-half of the Association members and less than one-fourth of the Christian men in the institutions where there are Associations are engaged in voluntary, associated Bible study. This number

Possibilities of the Movement

could be doubled within two years if the various supervisory agencies were enlarged so that they could carry on a more aggressive propaganda. The experience of Oriental student Christian movements shows that thousands of non-Christian students might also be drawn into Bible classes if wise, concerted efforts were put forth by the Associations to accomplish this purpose.

More of the Associations should be led to adopt the cycles of progressive Bible studies prepared by the Movement. Further courses of study to meet the needs of various classes of students and to provide opportunities for advanced work must be prepared. In the last analysis the largest development of the Bible study work depends upon the leadership of the classes. Continued attention should be given, therefore, to discovering, enlisting, and training leaders for the Bible classes from among both students and professors. While every effort is put forth to increase greatly the number of men studying the Bible in classes, principal and constant stress must be placed on using those methods and agencies which promote the formation of the habit of personal, thorough, and reverent study of the Word of God.

**Methods to
Emphasize**

Students of North America

**Awaken
Sense of
Civic Re-
sponsibility**

The Association Movement should be ambitious to become a larger factor in helping to solve the social, moral, and religious problems of the United States and Canada. The members of the Associations should be influenced to recognize and to accept their responsibility to carry out in action the principles and spirit of Christ within the sphere of their influence in professional life, in politics, in commerce, in industrial life, or in whatever be their chosen calling. The Movement can never measure up to its possibilities unless it has this larger conception of its responsibility. In Association conventions and periodicals more should be said on this subject. It may be that the time has come for an organized propaganda of this kind of work similar to what has been done for foreign missions by the Volunteer Movement. And just as there are classes in hundreds of the Associations for the study of problems before the Church in non-Christian nations, there should be classes for the discussion of social and other problems which concern the life of the United States and Canada. Christian students should devote special attention to the thorough study of the moral and religious life of the young men and boys in the cities and in the rural

Possibilities of the Movement

districts. The Association should participate more largely in social, philanthropic effort for the betterment of the communities surrounding the universities. What a mighty force for righteousness the 40,000 and more members of the Movement might be within the range of their influence, even while they are students. And on graduation, as they enter upon different influential walks of life, either as laymen or clergymen, they ought as educated men and leaders to become the largest single human influence for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God on this continent.

A sufficient number of students of real ability are not devoting themselves to the work of the Christian ministry. It seems to become increasingly difficult to draw men into that calling. This is a serious problem, for the Church cannot accomplish her work in the world without thoroughly competent leaders. It is a problem which should concern the Association Movement, because it is in a position to do more than any other agency to turn the minds and hearts of men in this direction, and because one of its avowed objects is to serve the Church. In the interest of the work of Christ in North America and in the interest of the foreign missionary enterprise which is de-

**More Men
for the
Ministry**

Students of North America

pendent on an adequate home base, the Associations should see that the claims of the ministry are pressed upon the strongest Christian men in the universities. Influential pastors, who are qualified to present the subject in a way calculated to appeal to students, should be induced to give addresses on the ministry in the colleges and to have interviews with students who are impressed by their message. Pamphlets setting forth effectively the need of more men for the ministry should be prepared and widely circulated among students of ability and devotion. The prayers of the Church must be enlisted to the end that the Spirit of God may thrust forth men into this calling.

Study of World Field

The number of students engaged in the study of the field and work of the Church in heathen lands should be greatly increased. While the progress already made has been notable, yet when we compare the 5,000 members of mission study classes with the scores of thousands of Christian students in the colleges or even with the 6,000 theological students of North America, we recognize how much remains to be done. Every reason which has influenced those who have already entered these classes, applies with like force to those

Possibilities of the Movement

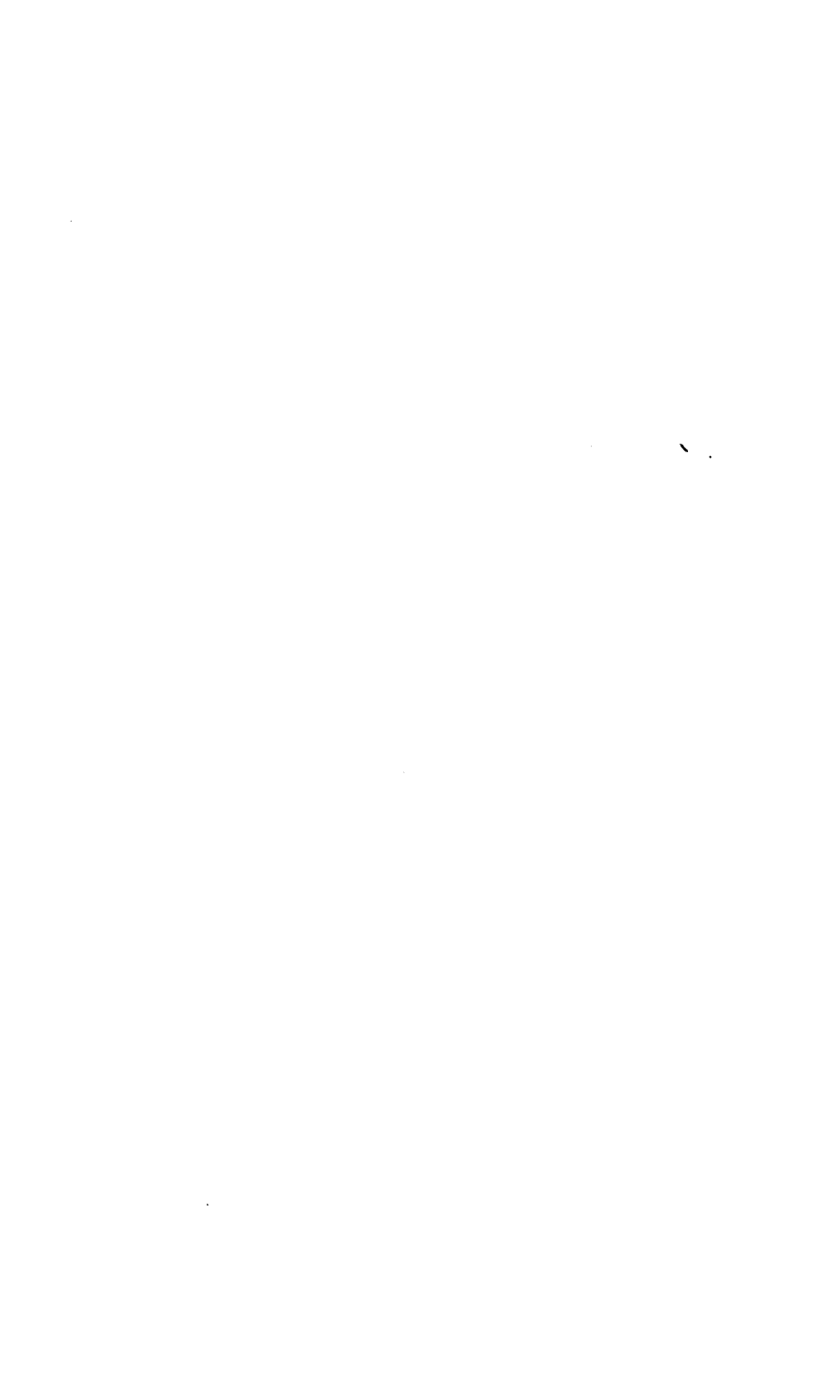
who have not. It is of fundamental importance that at this stage of the missionary enterprise those who are going out from the colleges to guide the opinion and activity of the Church at home and abroad, whether as clergymen or laymen, should be intelligent concerning the achievements and outlook of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole world. Progress in this direction should embrace the enlistment of larger numbers in study classes, more scholarly work by the members of classes, the coöperation of more professors and advanced students as teachers, and the preparation of additional text-books of high grade. We have a right also to expect that, under the influence of the Volunteer Movement, some students and professors will be led to become foreign mission specialists or experts—thinkers, writers, and authorities on foreign missionary problems.

Even greater than the need for leaders in the Church in North America is the need for more foreign missionaries. The non-Christian world imperatively demands more men. They are needed to fill gaps in the missionary ranks. They are needed to respond to the burning appeals which are coming from the missionary societies, and from fields already partially manned. They are needed to press into vast

**Recruiting
for World
Conquest**

Students of North America

regions where Christ has not been named. They are needed to evangelize the present generation which cannot be evangelized unless it be done in the present generation. Nothing short of the going forth of a great host of the choicest spirits of the colleges of the United States and Canada will ensure the highest vitality of the Church in these two great nations. The dictates of patriotism as well as of religion should, therefore, greatly strengthen the purpose of the Association Movement in its efforts to raise up an army of volunteers who will go forth at the call of the Church to meet the deep need and to improve the inspiring opportunity presented to this generation in the non-Christian world.













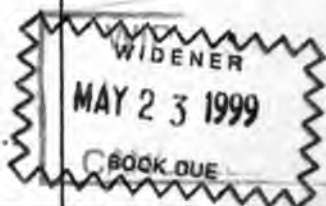


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